



April
2021

Future Drought Fund

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience Program



The Natural Resource Management Drought Resilience Program has 2 streams – Grants and Landscapes. It provides funding for farmer groups, NRM bodies, and agricultural organisations to adopt land management practices and technologies that improve the drought resilience of agricultural lands.

Funding

\$13.4 million was allocated through the following competitive processes:

- \$7.8 million landscapes stream - open only to Regional Natural Resource Management bodies.
- \$5.6 million grants stream - open to all.

Need for the program

The Program promotes transformational on-ground practices, networks and partnerships that contribute to the drought resilience of agricultural landscapes.

Stronger farm performance and resilience to drought and other climate risks can be achieved through improved management of natural capital, such as:

- soils
- water
- groundcover
- vegetation.

The [Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020-2024](#) prioritises the environmental resilience of agricultural landscapes. This includes building drought resilience through improved natural capital management.

Key points

- The \$13.4 million Natural Resource Management Drought Resilience Program is a key part of the Future Drought Fund.
- 80 funded projects will support demonstration and adoption of land management practices.
- Projects start by mid-2021.



Projects

The successful projects involve:

- testing and demonstrating new farming practices, including the use of different pasture/forage varieties and novel grazing strategies
- tracking and forecasting pasture biomass to plan operations and schedule decision points
- using drought tolerant native trees and shrub species as windbreaks
- experimenting with new and innovative ways to maintain continuous live ground cover
- analysing soil moisture to assist in preparing and responding to drought conditions
- Peer-to-peer learning and sharing the latest thinking on drought resilience.

NRM Landscape projects started in February 2021. NRM Grants projects start from mid-2021. Details of each project are available on the department's website: agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/future-drought-fund/nrm-landscapes.

An Australian Government Drought Initiative

